



Postdoctoral Fellowship in Adult Clinical Neuropsychology (2025-2027)

Division of Neuropsychology, Department of Neurology

The Division of Neuropsychology in the Department of Neurology at the University of Pennsylvania is pleased to offer a two-year, full-time postdoctoral fellowship in Adult Clinical Neuropsychology.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Penn Postdoctoral Fellowship in Clinical Neuropsychology is to cultivate advanced clinical competencies in neuropsychology, in alignment with the Houston Conference Guidelines for training. The fellowship provides rigorous, supervised training that emphasizes the integration of scientific knowledge with clinical practice in assessing, diagnosing, and treating neurocognitive disorders. This program aims to foster expertise in the following areas:

1. **Neuropsychological Evaluation and Competency Development:** Fellows will gain advanced proficiency in neuropsychological assessment methodologies. Training will cover foundational and functional competencies critical to professional practice in clinical neuropsychology.
2. **Brain-Behavior Relationships:** Fellows will deepen their understanding of brain-behavior relationships across diverse neurological, psychiatric, and medical conditions, developing skills that are essential for accurate diagnosis and treatment planning.
3. **Culturally Competent Care:** The program emphasizes cultural competence, training fellows to conduct culturally informed and effective neuropsychological evaluations for patients from diverse racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

This fellowship is designed to produce skilled, culturally competent, and scientifically informed neuropsychologists who are prepared to advance in professional practice and contribute meaningfully to the field of clinical neuropsychology.

Clinical Training: This fellowship aims to provide advanced training in neuropsychological evaluation for a diverse population within the Penn Medicine system, including the Hospital of University of Pennsylvania (HUP), Pennsylvania Hospital, and Presbyterian Hospital, and provide fellows with the experience required for independent practice, state licensure, and ABPP/CN board certification. The program aims to prepare fellows to achieve proficiency in the specialized practice of clinical neuropsychology, as well as in providing tiered supervision, consultation and collaborating effectively within multi-disciplinary teams. Fellows can expect to spend more than 50% of their time in clinical training, seeing 3 clinical cases per week. Fellows will be involved in all aspects of the evaluation, including interviews, testing, report writing, and feedback. Additionally, fellows will engage in didactic sessions, present case studies throughout their training, and have the opportunity to participate in research projects. The Neuropsychology Division at HUP consists of 7 neuropsychologists, 2 post-doctoral fellows, and 4 pre-doctoral interns, and practicum trainees. *Given the opportunity to focus on evaluating Spanish-speaking patients with diverse presenting complaints and conducting related research, bilingual Spanish/English candidates are encouraged to apply.*

Available Clinical Rotations

The postdoctoral clinical training experience will be tailored to the individual needs of the trainee and may include any of the following rotations. Rotations can be 1-2 days per week and will be 6 or 12 months in length.

Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders Center (PD&MDC): The PD&MDC at the University of Pennsylvania has been recognized by the National Parkinson Foundation as one of 45 worldwide "Centers of Excellence" and is among the largest of its kind in the country. The center provides comprehensive evaluation, diagnosis, treatment, and management for a range of movement disorders, including but not limited to Parkinson's disease, atypical and secondary parkinsonism, Huntington's disease, essential tremor, ataxia, and functional movement disorders. Neuropsychological evaluations are conducted to assess cognitive and neuropsychiatric functioning and to assist with clarifying diagnosis and treatment planning, such as appropriateness for deep brain stimulation (DBS) surgery and other interventional procedures. In addition to weekly supervision, the fellow will be involved in monthly DBS case conference meetings, presenting findings of the neuropsychological evaluation when their patients are discussed in surgical conference. *Primary Supervisor: Baochan Tran, PsyD*

General Neuropsychology Rotations: There are two available general neuropsychology rotations, each of which has a different minor area of focus. Fellows will spend at least 1 day per week in a general neuropsychology rotation. Penn Neurology has multiple specialty centers for assessing and treating patients with neurodegenerative disease (e.g. Penn Memory Center and Frontotemporal Degeneration Center), MS, and stroke, as well as a dedicated Post-COVID Assessment and Recovery Clinic, Comprehensive Epilepsy Center, and specialty center for evaluation and treatment of patients with Traumatic Brain Injury. Patients are referred to the general neuropsychology clinic from all these clinics.

1. This rotation will include the opportunity to perform evaluations with Spanish-speaking patients for those interns who are fluent in Spanish. *Supervisor: Katya Rascovsky, PhD*
2. This rotation will also include transplant and neuro-oncology evaluations, DBS candidacy evaluations, and attendance at the DBS consensus conference. *Supervisor: Yinka Read, PsyD*

Traumatic Brain Injury, Presbyterian Hospital: The traumatic brain injury (TBI) clinic is housed at Penn Medicine University City (PMUC), Presbyterian Hospital, and includes collaboration with rehabilitation providers at Good Shephard Penn Partners (GSPP). This rotation primarily includes evaluation of individuals with a history of a mild TBI, though other rehabilitation patient populations are also served (e.g. CVA, moderate to severe injuries). *Supervisor: Eileen Moran, PhD*

Neurodegenerative Disease Focused Rotations: The Penn Memory Center (PMC) and Frontotemporal Degeneration (FTD) Center, as well as the Cognitive Neurology Clinic, frequently refer patients to the neuropsychology service. This rotation will primarily include evaluation of older adults with concerns about a neurodegenerative disease process. Attendance at the respective center's consensus conference will be part of this rotation. *Supervisor: Emma Rhodes, PhD (FTD Center) or Dawn Mechanic-Hamilton, PhD, ABPP/CN (PMC)*

Penn Memory Center, Brief Assessment Rotation: The Penn Memory Center (PMC) is made up of a multidisciplinary team with expertise in neurology, gerontology, psychiatry, neuropsychology and social work. The PMC serves as a unified Penn Medicine source for those age 65 and older seeking evaluation, diagnosis, treatment, information, and research opportunities related to symptoms of progressive

memory loss, and accompanying changes in thinking, communication and personality. This rotation includes brief clinical screenings for individuals with Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias. The fellow will attend weekly consensus conference and present the brief cognitive screening to the multidisciplinary team. *Supervisor: Dawn Mechanic-Hamilton, PhD, ABPP/CN*

Cognitive Remediation Intervention Group: This rotation includes cofacilitating intervention groups for individuals with mild to moderate cognitive symptoms. The cognitive remediation groups target strategies to improve various executive functioning skills, including building attention and focus, supporting working memory, and improving organization, and decision making. This program aims to increase understanding about goal management problems, and helps individuals establish a vocabulary to describe these problems, as well as a set of techniques to compensate for them. Attention training is implemented using mindfulness exercises and strategies, and this group further employs an Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) tools. *Supervisor: Eileen Moran, PhD*

Penn Memory Center, Psychotherapeutic Intervention in MCI Rotation: This rotation includes cofacilitating the Cognitive Fitness Psychotherapy Group, an 8-week intervention group for individuals with MCI, who are experiencing symptoms of depression and/or anxiety. The group employs an Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) approach to address distressing thoughts and feelings and incorporates compensatory strategies to implement use of ACT tools. *Supervisor: Dawn Mechanic-Hamilton, PhD, ABPP/CN*

Research Opportunities

The Penn fellowship also provides a unique opportunity to be involved in research with Latino populations with Dr. Katya Rascovsky. The fellow will spend a portion of their time (~10%) contributing to ongoing projects. Fellows may be involved in the Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis (MESA)-MIND study, a research project that focuses on examining the relationship between brain health and cognitive function in Spanish-speaking populations. Responsibilities may include data management, cognitive test administration for Spanish speaking participants, and quality control efforts ensuring proficiency in English and Spanish for cognitive test administration across multiple MESA-MIND centers. Additionally, fellows may be involved in the Diverse Vascular Contributions to Cognitive Impairment and Dementia (VCID) study which is focused on understanding how vascular health affects cognition, specifically in participants of diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds.

This fellowship is primarily clinical in nature; however, participation in related research will also be expected, either through development of independent projects or collaborating with ongoing faculty projects. Potential mentors include Dr. Dawn Mechanic-Hamilton at the Penn Memory Center, focusing on a wide range of studies related to Alzheimer's disease, mild cognitive impairment, cognitive aging, and lifelong brain health, and Dr. Emma Rhodes at the Penn FTD Center. Dr. Rhodes research interests include mechanisms of neuropsychiatric symptoms in neurodegenerative disease, with an emphasis on social and emotional dysfunction in bvFTD, and the impact of psychosocial factors, such as mood and personality, on clinical and cognitive outcomes in aging and dementia. Additional Penn faculty members may be available as mentors based on interest and availability.

Didactic Seminars

Neuropsychology didactics include lectures, case presentations, and fact-finding exercises that span a breadth of neuropsychology topics whilst acknowledging the ways in which multiculturalism, diversity, intersectionality, as well as social and structural forces impact neuropsychology. Didactics will include the following:

Neuropsychology Seminar Series: Weekly Neuropsychology didactic series (in partnership with the Philadelphia VA and Bancroft Rehabilitation), which includes neuropsychologists, postdoctoral fellows, interns, and other trainees. This series includes didactics on several academic, clinical, and research issues in Clinical Neuropsychology, as well as discussions of the board certification process and several fact-finding exercises.

Neuropsychology Group Supervision: Weekly division-wide group supervision in which supervisors and trainees informally present cases for consultation and didactic discourse. Weekly group supervision may also involve journal club discussions and review of new clinical tools.

Neuropsychology Case Conference: Bi-monthly group case conference, with case descriptions and literature review led by trainees and discussion led by Neuropsychology Supervisors. Fellows are required to present at least one case conference during each year of training.

DBS Case Conference (first and last Monday of each month): This is a collaborative conference where a multidisciplinary team of providers, including neurologists, neurosurgeons, neuropsychologists, and other specialists review potential DBS surgical candidates. The team assesses each patient's overall history, presenting symptoms, and potential benefits from the surgery, as well as discuss the most suitable surgical intervention and target selection.

Penn Memory Center and Frontotemporal Degeneration Center Consensus Conferences (Mondays): These are multidisciplinary case conferences during which clinical patients and research participant cases are discussed and diagnoses adjudicated. Case presentations include history, physical exam, neuropsychological testing, and blood, CSF, and imaging biomarkers.

Neurology Grand Rounds (weekly every Wednesday): Grand Rounds series is to provide a thorough immersion into current trends in neurology in the major subspecialties (i.e. epilepsy, movement disorders, MS, etc.). The series is geared towards a balanced approach over a three-year period (based on the length of the residency program).

Supervision, Professional Practice, and Evaluations

Supervision: Postdoctoral fellows participate in at least 2 hours of weekly one-on-one supervision. Additionally, they participate in one hour of weekly group supervision and case presentation. Fellows are encouraged and will have the opportunity to participate in tiered supervision with interns and practicum trainees.

Evaluations: Postdoctoral fellows are provided with quarterly evaluations, in accordance with the PA state licensure requirements. These evaluations provide the opportunity for feedback and goal-adjustment across the two-year fellowship in order to meet training objectives.

Professional Practice: Didactics within the division of neuropsychology and across PSOM departments will be available to postdoctoral fellows and will cover topics related to ethical standards in practice of psychology and professional practice relevant to cultural and individual differences and diversity.

- Examples of prior talks:
 - “Advancing Health Equity in Neurology” Joshua Budhu, MD, MS, MPH
 - “Unconscious Bias: What is it, how does it hurt our patients and peers, and what should we do about it?” Roy Hamilton, MD
 - “Neuropsychological assessment of Asian Americans” Baochan Tran, PsyD

Grievance Procedures: The University of Pennsylvania has procedures in place to address grievances both informally and formally. Additional information and resources can be found at:
<https://postdocs.upenn.edu/resource/grievance-process/>

Fellowship Setting

Penn Medicine Health System:

**Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Hospital, Presbyterian Hospital
Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania**



Founded with the establishment of the nation's first hospital, Pennsylvania Hospital, in 1751 and the first medical school at the University of Pennsylvania in 1765, Penn Medicine boasts a rich history of patient care spanning over two centuries. Positioned in the vibrant city of Philadelphia and part of the University of Pennsylvania campus, Penn Medicine stands as a leading institution in healthcare excellence. With six acute care hospitals, numerous outpatient locations, and educational facilities at the Perelman

School of Medicine, Penn Medicine delivers cutting-edge medical care to the community. Across its hospitals, Penn Medicine offers over 2,500 patient beds and employs a dedicated team of over 44,000 staff, including more than 5,000 physicians and 2,000 nurses, ensuring high-quality care and support for patients. Penn Medicine invests heavily in research and clinical care, with an annual budget of over \$9 billion dedicated to advancing medical science and providing outstanding patient services. The Perelman School of Medicine, consistently ranked among the top medical schools in the country, is the academic heart of Penn Medicine. The institution's research programs receive over \$1 billion in funding annually and are at the forefront of medical innovation.

Penn Neurology, within this dynamic healthcare network, serves over 60,000 patients annually, providing specialized neurological care. This extensive reach offers neuropsychology fellows exposure to a diverse range of cases, enhancing their training experience. Committed to diversity and inclusion, Penn Medicine Neurology values the unique contributions of every team member, fostering collaboration among professionals from various backgrounds to provide exceptional care and advance research. Penn Medicine is deeply committed to serving the community, providing millions of dollars in charity care and community benefit services each year. Discover the exceptional care and groundbreaking research that make Penn Medicine a world leader in healthcare.

Perelman Center for Advanced Medicine

The Perelman Center — a \$302 million facility and the largest capital project undertaken in the history of Penn Medicine — was designed to create an ideal environment for patient-focused care and collaboration among health professionals. The Perelman Center is home to Penn Medicine's Abramson Cancer Center, radiation oncology, cardiovascular medicine and an outpatient surgical pavilion.



Life in Philadelphia



Welcome to Philadelphia! As you settle into your new home in the "City of Brotherly Love," you'll discover a vibrant and welcoming community with a rich history and diverse culture. Philadelphia is the largest city in Pennsylvania, with a population of over 1.6 million residents, making it the sixth most populous city in the United States. The city played a central role in the founding of the nation, with key historic sites such as Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell.

Philadelphia boasts a dynamic economy with major industries including education, healthcare, finance, and technology. It is home to prestigious institutions like the University of Pennsylvania and Drexel University. The city offers a vibrant arts scene, featuring world-class museums like the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Barnes Foundation, as well as live performances at venues such as the Kimmel Center.

Sports enthusiasts will appreciate Philadelphia's passionate support for its major professional teams in football, basketball, baseball, and hockey. The city's extensive park system includes Fairmount Park, one of the largest urban parks in the country, and the scenic Schuylkill River Trail. Philadelphia's public transportation system, SEPTA, offers convenient options for navigating the city and surrounding areas.

Maps of Philadelphia: <https://www.visitphilly.com/maps-directions/#downloadable-maps>

Events and activities in Philadelphia: <https://www.visitphilly.com/uwishunu/>

Stipend and Benefits

Fellowship includes a competitive stipend in line with the University of Pennsylvania postdoctoral fellowship stipend levels (<https://research.upenn.edu/news/new-minimum-stipend-levels-for-postdoctoral-researchers-for-fy2025/>). Fellows are provided with a work laptop and cell phone, and access to all Penn library systems. They are offered a benefits package, including medical, dental, and vision insurance; 401k, and paid time off (holidays, 10 vacation days, sick time, and professional development/conference days). Additionally, fellows are eligible for the commuter benefits program, providing commuter discounts (50%) for SEPTA, PATCO, NJ Transit, and Amtrak 10-trip tickets.

Application Process

Minimum Qualifications:

All applicants must have completed:

1. A doctoral degree (Ph.D./Psy.D.) in clinical psychology from an APA or CPA- accredited program.
2. An APA- or CPA-accredited internship with a focus in neuropsychology

Competitive applicants will be those with evidence of specialization in neuropsychology, and clear interest in neurodegenerative diseases. Preferred applications will speak English and Spanish. Additionally, preferred applicants will have experience in administering, scoring and interpreting neuropsychological assessment, as well as experience with report writing.

Application:

Interested applicants should send an email application by **December 15, 2024** to:
PennNeuropsychTraining@PennMedicine.upenn.edu

Application should include:

1. Cover letter stating experience, goals, and interests.
2. Current curriculum vitae (please include a list of the neuropsychological measures with which you have experience).
3. 2 de-identified clinical neuropsychology evaluation reports
4. 2 letters of recommendation sent directly from the referee

We do not participate in the APPIC match.